

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LX No. 11

September 2025



Club Picnic & Concours Reports and Photos
Steve Veris' Birthday Gift - Featured Car



From El Presidente

Sam Hodges

Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good. I've run out of projects at the same time that I'm out of columns. Well, that's a lie. I still have plenty of things to do, but I have come to my last column. It's been a blast. We've had some good times and some not so good ones, but in the end, we've reached the end of another year of the MGCC SWOC.

So, just reiterate, there's the MGA that has a whole host of issues, but mainly the interior that needs to be placed back in. I got seat frames and covers from George Kress and now just need to spend some time rebuilding the seats. The engine seems to be okay, but "seems to be decent" a pretty wide range of possible engine issues. For now, though, I'll focus on the seats. The orange '78 B



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club
P.O. Box 20032 Dabel Branch
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are **twenty-five (\$25.00)** per year, payable during September and October. On January 1st. the names of delinquent members are removed from the roster. See **Carole Looft** for further membership information.

MG Car Club Monthly Meeting

The Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at **Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill**, 67 South Main St. Miamisburg 45342, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

Wed, September 24, 2025

MG Car Club Officers

President..... Sam Hodges
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email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
Vice President..... Ed Wolf
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needs new tie rod ends. I have them, now I just need to take some time and install them. Also, as mentioned, it's probably a good idea to change a belt or hose or two. I did notice the last time I drove it, which was to the picnic, that there was a small, 12oz can diameter puddle of fluid by the right rear wheel. There's only one thing that'll make that puddle. A poodle? No, more than likely a brake cylinder. That's now on the list. The green '77 B has what appears to be a collapse(ing) rear leaf spring. Sitting in the driveway, it looks like the car has a flat tire even without me adding to the weight load.

So, while you're all off enjoying the new president, I will be in exile, here (see photos), working on these cars. While it's never ending, it's also very satisfying when, for a brief, fleeting moment, everything seems to not be too broken.

As I'm writing this, the Concours has just wrapped up. It was a nice day, a little warm, but a great turnout. It was nice to see all of the MGs in the Skip Peterson Memorial class. I knew all the cars and it was nice that Skip's MGA was in attendance with its new owner. Thanks to all of those who volunteered.



Thank you Sam Hodges (El Presidente) for leading us through the past year with grace and humor and for arranging fun events such as our Dayton Dragons baseball outing!

MG Help Hotline

Need help with repair or maintenance of your MG? Call one of the club members listed below. If the person you contact cannot help, they most likely can refer you to someone who can and/or they can assemble a team to come to your house to help work on your MG.

- Graham Cooper 513-680-8657
- Dave Gribler 937-671-8994
- Sam Hodges 937-581-4767
- Terry Looft 937-527-7353
- Ron Parks 937-207-9009
- Steve Powell 937-470-8962
- John Scocozzo 937-231-9188



MG AUTOMOTIVE

Parts, Service and Restoration for
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and
Related Autos



Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

Up Coming Events

September:

14 – Dayton Concours d'Elegance
24 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

October:

22 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

November:

19 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

December:

6 – Holiday Party (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

January:

28 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

February:

25 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

March:

25 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

April:

22 - Meeting (Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill)

From the Editor

Ron Parks

Remember any and all appropriate contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. You can mail them to me at 4101 Grossepoint Street, Springfield, OH 45502, or E-Mail to: MGDRIVER@woh.rr.com. Either of those methods will work fine or you can call me at (937) 322-0717 and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview. Editorial cutoff each month is Wednesday two (2) weeks prior to the Club meeting.

Welcome New Member

By Carole Looft

Michael Pagano
583 Asbury Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-515-9500
mjonagap26@gmail.com
1973 MGB GT

Annual Membership Dues

By Carole Looft

The month of September is the time again to renew your MG Car Club membership. Membership dues are \$25.00 for club members who will be receiving the newsletter by email. Those members wishing to continue with a paper copy of the newsletter will need to add an additional \$10.00 to offset printing and postage making their total \$35.00. Your dues must be paid for you to vote and/or run for office in elections at the September meeting.

NOTE: The pro-rated amount is for **NEW** members only.

We appreciate your continued support of the MG Car Club Southwest Ohio Centre. You can bring your dues to the monthly club meeting or you can send it to:

MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre
P.O. Box 20032. Dabel Branch
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

British Car Day T-shirts for sale

By Carole Looft

We have a few extra t-shirts left over from BCD and I am offering them for sale. We have (2)small, (9)medium, (3)large and (9)Xlarge. Reduced to just \$5 each. There are (4) XXL – reduced to just \$10 each. They will be sold on a first come basis. Email me if you would like any – clooft@earthlink.net. You can pick them up at the meeting.

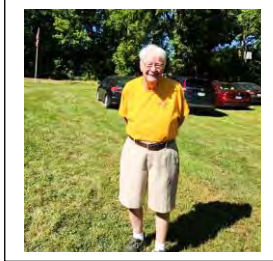


Garage Art (Barnes)

A little twist on things this month. Garage Art of Art's Garage. Here are a few "Art" pictures of "Art's" Garage from the Summer Picnic. Very telling pictures, proof of late night card games, a trophy buck picked up on the way home from the MG meeting, and one where they tried to "frame" him for some little thing in the garage. Cathy has a different story. All kidding aside we had a great time at the picnic, thank you Cathy and Art!

Send your .jpg pictures to me at: garageart@looft.net

I will compile all the pictures and forward to Ron. For the more unique items feel free to add a note of where, what, when the item was acquired. Terry



Steve Veris' Birthday Gift - '60' MGA

By Steve Veris

Joy bought me the car for my 40th birthday and a little later I bought her Jaguar for her 40th. Both cars have served us well over the years, but I think I got the better deal!

IIRC, I ran across the car in an Autotrader ad and went to see it right away because it was nearby in Beavercreek. The owner was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force at Wright-Pat and was selling the car because his son was about to turn 16 and the guy didn't want him driving any sports car.

The car came from California, and then with him to Kansas, where he was stationed before being transferred to Wright-Pat. He claimed it was always garaged and I don't doubt him.

Later, when I got the car apart for painting, you could literally eat off the insides of the rocker panels! They were that clean. I took it into Ziebart here in Dayton, and I doubt you would find more than a spec of rust anywhere.

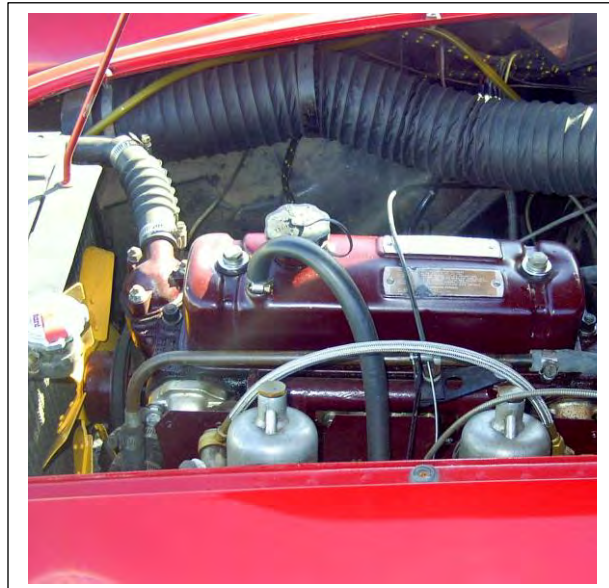


Anyway, it was painted powder (Iris) blue when I saw it and had a slightly crumpled right front fender and a tired interior, but it ran pretty well. The original color was Black, but my Lotus was black at the time and we decided to change the color. I ordered samples of the 1960 factory colors Alamo Beige, Dove Gray, and Chariot Red. The beige was truly one of the ugliest colors I had ever seen, and it wasn't surprising to learn later that MG had to pay all its dealers to repaint the cars that were originally delivered in that color.

My dad and I drove the car to Chicago to drop it off with the painter who had done cars for me in the past. On the trip up, there was a visually exciting fire, with flames coming from behind the MGA dashboard. My father tried to beat out the flames with his hands and they subsided fairly quickly. Later, I managed to fix the short circuit and was able to get the car to the painter. We almost went with the gray, but decided we couldn't go wrong with red.

After getting it back to Dayton, I decided the engine was tired and had MG Automotive do most of the rebuild. I had previously removed the head and decided to have the Genuine machine shop downtown do a valve job, before giving the car to Steve Miller to do the rest of the work.

With the engine back in the car, I had it towed back to my garage to finish doing the rest of the re-installation. Everything went smoothly and the car started right up. I ran the engine several times over the next few weeks before pulling it out of the garage for the rebuilt engine's maiden voyage. The drive only lasted about three or four blocks, after which a lock washer that Genuine had left stuck in the head somewhere shook loose, and found its way into one of the combustion chambers. It got stuck in the top of one of the pistons and literally beat the head to death.



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Back to square one, I found a replacement cylinder head and Steve Miller happened to have a good used matching piston to use as a replacement. In retrospect, I guess I was fortunate to not have any damage to the one cylinder.

Marina Auto Interiors did the top, rugs, and seats for me, and I refinished the wood door sill pieces which many owners have covered with matching vinyl trim. I guess we like the wood look, even without a wooden dashboard.

The 48-spoke wire wheels were restored and tuned by the old Dayton Wire Wheels, back when they still did that kind of thing.



We drove it to the 50th anniversary All MG celebration in Indianapolis, in 2002, and entered it at GT 37, which the club hosted in 2012. It's in storage right now, waiting for me to install an oil pump because the oil pressure is getting a little low.

Safety  *Fast*

Scott & Anna's MGB Parts Sorting Party

By Scott and Anna Chapel

You are invited to bring your MGB expertise to our house to identify and sort parts for our MGB. We will provide drinks and snacks.

- Where: 30 Coachside Court
Monroe, OH 45050
- When: 2:00pm on Sunday September 28, 2025

Gratefully yours,
Scott and Anna

Special Guests at the August Club Meeting

By Carole Looft

We were surprised and honored to welcome noted guests at our August club meeting. Elwood and Jake, the Blues Brothers, along with 'The Soul Man' joined us for our monthly get-together. To top the evening off, Elwood was the lucky winner of the Gumball Rallye drawing at the end of the meeting.

We enjoyed having them in attendance.



MG Car Club Picnic

By Ron Parks

Thanks go to Cathy and Art Barnes for hosting the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre' summer picnic at their home on Sunday August 31st. Burgers, franks and all the goodies everyone contributed were delicious and devoured by the grateful group! A good time was had by all! Well, except for Dave McCann Jr. in the moment captured here, by Art Barnes. Dave enjoyed the rest of the day and probably this moment too?

There were six (6) MGs and one Jag on the front lawn; a pretty picture!



Picnic Hosts Cathy and Art -Thank You!

Skip Peterson Remembered at Concours d'Elegance at Carillon Park

By Ron Parks

The Concours d'Elegance show on Sunday, September 14, 2025, was not the same without Skip Peterson on the show field, although he was there in spirit. Skip would have been pleased to see the line up of MGs in the Skip Peterson Memorial class. MGs ranging from the MGTC through MGBGT V8 were on display, including the MGA Skip had restored, entered by the new owner, Steve Milby. All the MGs in the class were top notch concours quality cars, as evidenced by the time the judges took to select the winners. After long deliberations, the 1958 MGA Coupe, owned by Bruce Mann, was given the blue ribbon. Awards of excellence went to Mike and Sandy Hickman for their 1958 MG Magnette ZB Veritone and to Tim and Nancy Shaw for their 1961 MG Midget.

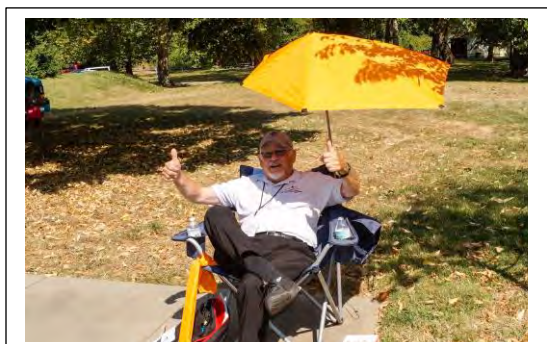
It was an honor for Marc Masquelier and me to serve as Class Hosts for the Skip Peterson Memorial class. Skip's family posed for a photo in front of the MGS with the tribute display board in the foreground. Skip's family had the honor of carrying the Best of show trophy to the Sun Oil station for the awards presentation. The family was also on hand to present the first place trophy for the Skip Peterson Memorial class to the winner, Bruce Mann.

While all of us had Skip in our thoughts throughout the day, we continued to have a good time and enjoy the Concours, as Skip would have wanted!



(L to R) *Skip's Family*: Sam Peterson, Erin Wheeler, Libby Peterson, Jennifer Peterson & Evan Wheeler

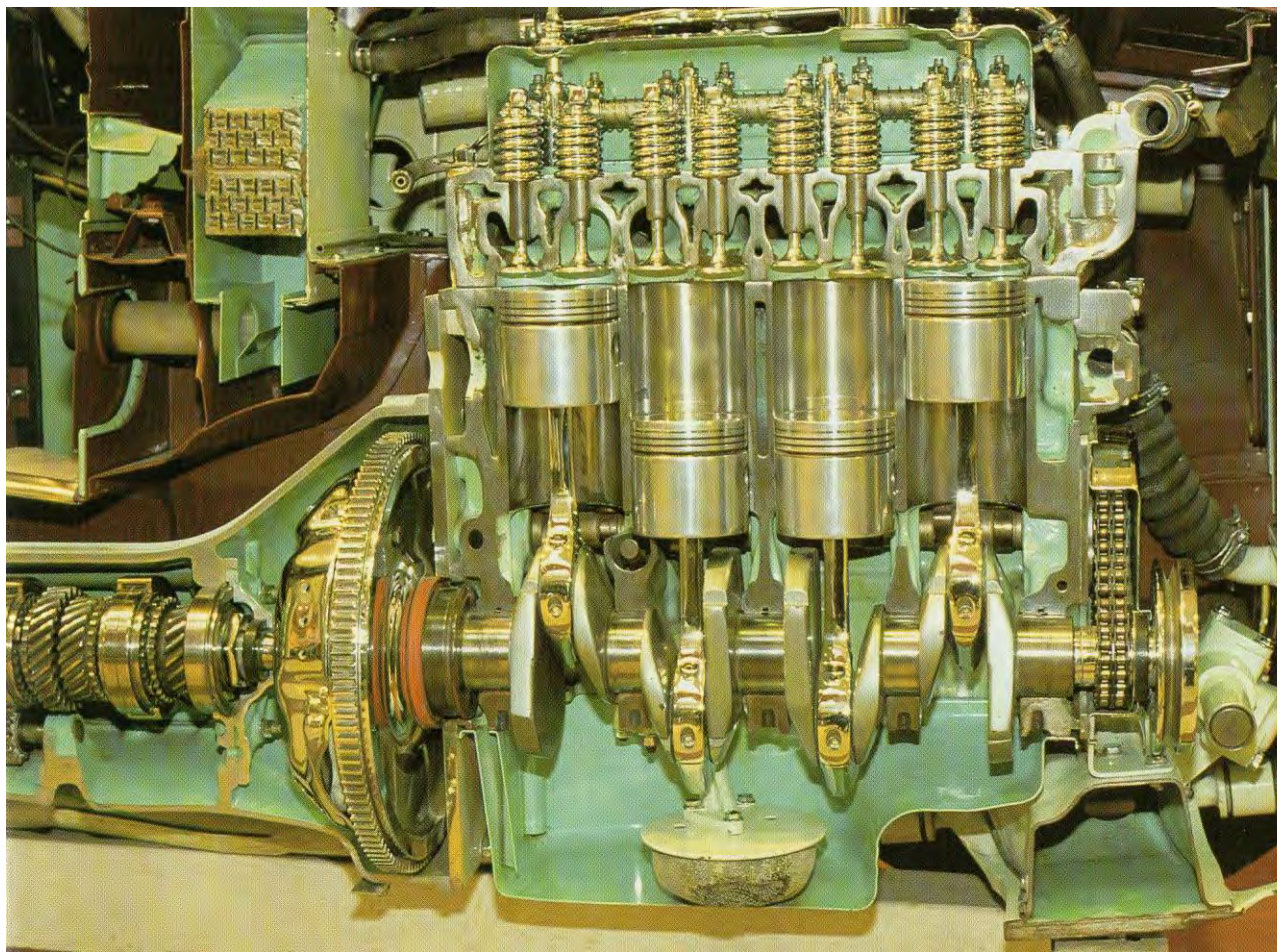
Concours d'Elegance at Carillon Park Class Hosts



Sectioned MGB Engine

Contributed by Ron Parks, scanned and captioned from “Original MGB” book by Anders Ditlev Clausager, Photography by John Colley

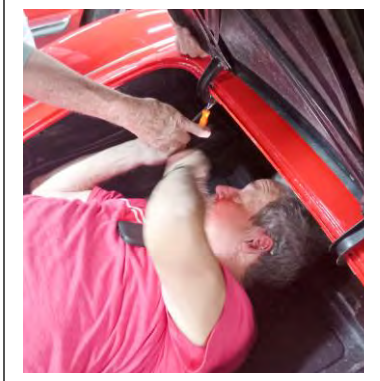
The sectioned engine from the display car at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, UK is an early Mark II and is therefore likely to be an 18GD series, but the internal layout is the same on all five-bearing 18G series engines from 1965 to 1971. The gearbox here is of the all-synchromesh type.



A-TEAM

By Ron Parks

The A-Team has made more progress towards turning the donated MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit. This month we cleaned and waxed the rear half of the body and installed and fitted the boot lid.



We still need volunteers to accomplish the items on the list of reassembly items to be done that was emailed to members. The list asked for some volunteers to adopt tasks for various areas of reassembly. Thank you to Ed Wolf, who signed up to help with this project. Things are staged and ready for work to begin on reassembly and cleaning tasks. The hope is that we can be all over the car at the same time without getting in each other's way and make the car drivable and saleable for next summer's driving season.

Classified Ads

For sale: 1975 Forest Green MGB convertible with 67K miles. Brand new tires (summer 2025), Turns over on first try. I have the top boot and another top that is included. Come by Powell Ohio to see it. Please contact Jon Ogden for pricing and questions. 330-417-3412 or jonathan.m.ogden@gmail.com (9/25)

Wanted: I have a '53 TD in need of a differential. Rick Jobe rtjobe@jobenet.net (8/24)

For sale: 1 right & 1 left front latch pillar for the MG TD,.Moss catalog #450-820 & 450-825. Selling as a pair for 1/2 the catalog value - \$94. Brand new. Free shipping. Danny Mortensen 859-384-7821 or agsdanny@aol.com (6/25)

For sale:. 1970 Split bumper MGB This car is show ready. \$20K. Contact Terry Looft, 937-382-1520 or Terry@Looft.net (5/25)

For sale:. 1970 Arkley Needs finishing. Front and rear body clip for an Arkley. TOP not included. (Arkley Fiberglass Body for Sale) Come by to see it. Please contact Steve Miller at MG Automotive for pricing. 937-294-7623 or MGAutomotive1@aol.com. (6/25)

Free classified policy: We are happy to run your auto-related ad for three months free of charge but may cut older and non-MG related ads as space requires. If you wish to continue the ad for an additional three months, contact Ron Parks MGdriver@woh.rr.com or 937-322-0717

Larger ads may be purchased for inclusion in the Octagon News for the following annual prices for 11 issues: full page ad - \$100, half page - \$ 75, quarter page - \$50, & Business card size - \$25.

Minutes from August Club Meeting

By Diana Hodges

El Presidente Sam Hodges called the August 2025 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order, for the tenth time for the third time precisely at 7:31. Sam brought the meeting to order by banging the gavel in Lois' ear. El Prez., "BCD was a good event. We had just over 200 cars, but a couple may have rusted on site. I was approached at BCD by Ron Ramer, President of the Cincinnati British car club with an offer. Opie Willis, owner of Horsepower Farms in Monroe, is proposing an all clubs Christmas gathering. They want to get every car club they can together. MG, Triumph, Corvette, Porsche, BMW, Nissan, etc. you name it, they have a club? They're invited. Dave Gribler, "That's easy, open bar..." Sam, "We think it's too late to do anything this year since most clubs have Holiday plans, but it might be something to think about for next year. Just something to think about. Lois Gribler, "Speaking of BCD, I noticed Diana got an award and you didn't."

Vice President's Report was next. Vice President Ed Wolf, "Regular gas is \$2.69. Diesel is \$3.29? Otherwise, nothing new."

Minutes were the next thing on the agenda. There was a lot of 'discussion' about the Minutes from last month. There were a few objections as to the lack of pertinent information pertaining to the exact amounts as well as the individuals who motioned to accept and approve. Based on the fact that I was ghost writing the Minutes and there was significant info missing, the Secretary's official response is, "Meh."

Ed Wolf motioned to not approve. That motion seems to have been missed during the discussion. Robert's Rules have been violated for the first time ever. Dave Johnson motioned to approve. John Florkey seconded. Minutes were approved. Many opposed, but not enough.

Treasurer's Report was next on the agenda. *(Here are the real numbers! I hope you're all happy!)* John Scocozzo, "For July we actually had income. We had income of Membership Dues (\$25.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$25.00. We had total expenses of: Postage (\$22.22) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$22.22. Total losses when subtracted from gains means a total gain to the MGCC of \$2.22. When added to our beginning balance of \$320.57 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$323.35 in the primary checking account. The savings account had \$3,884.47 before the application of \$0.16 in interest. The savings account now has \$3,884.63. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,247.98 with \$40.00 as cash on hand." Eddie Hill motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Art Barnes seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer's report approved.

Prez. Sam, "I took care of our Ohio Business filing for continued operation. I have the certificate. There was a \$25 renewal fee but we're good through 2030. Good with the Feds, good with the state."

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, "We have 62 members. Steve Milby, the guy who bought Skip's car joined. Scott and Anna now have their MGB at home. They want to have an impromptu party at their house. Anna will pick a date." Several peanuts from the gallery, "Open bar?" Anna will provide snacks and drinks. They'd like to have a sorting party so they can

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figure out what they have and what they're going to need." Jamie Thornberry wrote the article for Ron last month.

Birthdays in August: "Jennifer Peterson, Jayne Powell, Bruce Miller, Dave McCann, Sr., Carole Looft, and Leslie Hunter" *so many names, such tired fingers.*

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, "This Saturday is a Biscuits & Tea. (*You missed it*). The MGCC club picnic on August 31 (*You missed it*). The Concours d'Elegance is on September 14th." (*You missed it*) Cathy Barnes, "Bring something to share. We've all done this before." Terry Happensack showed up a week early. Mark your calendars. In one year, August 24-27, 2026 will be the All MG meet in Sandusky.

Sunshine Committee. Linda Parks had hip replacement. She's been out to dinner with the walker. Cruises around the house without the walker. John Twist had a heart attack.

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, "Thanks to Sam for the article and nice picture of Indy. Garage art, send pictures." Dave Gribler made a CD with all car songs. He has a copy of it at the meeting and is offering to make copies. There is one correction to the newsletter. It was 53 years ago, not 43 years ago."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "We still have the internet. I got a letter. Does this belong in this section? Someone misunderstood the membership fees, need to change the instructions to make it more clear. You can renew starting now." Anna, "Cash or check?" Diana Hodges, "Unmarked bills."

Beer Brake called at 7:51

Back from Break 8:02

Old Business. El Presidente, "Who's the oldest one here?" Ron Parks is old business, but still a soul man."

Accuracy of the minutes was raised again.

BCD. Carole Looft, "Stan Seto asked me how many club members do we have on the field? I'm not sure what he meant but he was under the impression that we had 50-60 members there. We actually had 25-30 on the field. Was parking an issue?" Eddie, "The layout was good. It actually seemed more organized. We had a great turnout on Friday. I take back all the mean, ugly things I was thinking." John Scocozzo, "There were some issues with same day registrations. There weren't handwritten instructions on the tags. Can we get something to address this for next year. Maybe registration needs to be tweaked."

New Business. "See above for BCD wrap up."

Sam, "New, going once..." Lois Gribler, "We should have an MGBGT class. We don't like being judged with the roadsters. They'll always win."

Carole Looft, "I think it might be fun to have a Halloween pub run? We could all come in costumes if possible. Think about it for the next meeting."

Tech Tips. "

Scott has all these parts and doesn't know what he's looking at. Scott, "You can use your phone to take a picture and Google AI does a search. I used it and it properly identified a turn signal stalk and MG horn button."

Ed asked Anna for a date. Weekend in September, after September 14. Anna decided on September 28th at 2:00. More information and directions forthcoming.

Gumball Rallye, Ron "Elwood" Parks won.

Next Meeting is September 24, 2026. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! That's why I'm burying it here. Next month is the end of our year and as a result, that means, Elections! Come prepared to serve the greater good! Pay your dues or we'll pay them for you and elect you anyway. We've done it before!

Motion to Adjourn: John Florkey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Gribler seconded. Meeting adjourned.

